Dear Howard,

Glad you called last night and happy at the news. You were wise to get accepted at a law school in the event you can't exercise your preference. And there the living is good, anyway.

What pleased me most is the subject of your theses and the fact that it can be a book. I am gratified that you heard me that clearly so early in our relationship, looked into it for yourself and found it to be one of the crucial periods of modern times that, as so many are, was not put together for popular comprehension. Most of all, of course, that you undertook to put it all together.

As you have matured you should, if you thought of it, have come to understand that it was my hope and intention that you get more from reading of that period than the essence of its historical significance that those participated in and shaped it sought to hide and did misrepresent, with consequences more disasterous to man than anything in modern history. I felt that with comprehension you would learn much more, particularly about the forces controlling what man does and does not do and what happens to him and, in fact, about life in general.

As war is too important to trust to the generals and law too important to leave entirely to the lawyers, so also can history not be left in the insensitive hands of those who make a profession of it if only because honesty with it jeopardizes their professional prospects, often futures.

Besides, as you have seen in my files, they often wither do not understand it or what is worse, do not permit themselves to.

And what is still worse, understanding and not hiding their understanding, to not impart meaning and thus hide it from the people. If you ever read my notes on Schlesinger's 1000 Days, prepared for Tiger To Ride, you will see a classic case.

I think it is just great that you have undertaken to overcome this deficiency in what the professional historians have done and that you have put it all together for those who otherwise might have no access to it. For your generation and the classes immediately behind you in particular. If in raising this with you what now seems so long ago I had no hope, not even the notion that you would do as you have done, it is more than pleasing that you have done it.

For a work of history I think the timing is excellent, thus last night I raised the question of a book with you. Because the timing is so good, I have a few suggestions to make. While it may not be apparent, I also have in mind the possibility that you may not be able to enter the law school you prefer and may want to try to switch at the end of the first year. This book, if it can appear, may also influence your ability to do that.

As soon as you can find the time to write your editor, please write him and tell him that you have completed this thesis, that you think or had in mind that it could be a successful book, and are they interested? They can decide that they don't want to touch the subject, in which event you would be free to offer it elsewhere. My hunch is that the subject will interest them much and that they will want to read it. It serves your interest first to know and then for them to read it as soon as possible. They should also want a second book by a new author and especially one so youthful. If they deal with you, they can incorporate reference in the first book, which can help the second.

You are not bound to accept any offer they make. The contract merely provides that you will offer your next work.

So, I suggest that you write a joint letter to Marc Raskin and Richard Barnett at the Institute for Policy Studies, 1520 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, telling them that you write at the suggestion of their friendly [illegible]